

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims below will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method of delivering digital media items to a user electronic device, the method comprising:

obtaining at the computer a playlist comprising a sequentially ordered plurality of digital media items that satisfies a set of restrictive criteria;

playing said playlist by the computer, wherein playing said playlist comprises sequentially delivering to the user electronic device, via a computer network, said sequentially ordered plurality of digital media items; and

while the computer is playing the playlist:

receiving, from the user electronic device, an indication to add a requested digital media item to the playlist;

evaluating whether adding the requested digital media item to the playlist would satisfy the set of restrictive criteria; and

when the set of restrictive criteria is satisfied, selectively adding the ~~indication of the~~ requested digital media item to the playlist for delivery to the user electronic device subsequent to receipt of the request.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the set of restrictive criteria comprises whether the playlist satisfies a set of group preferences.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the adding comprises inserting a requested media item at a random position in the playlist.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the adding comprises:

attempting to add the requested media item to a position in the playlist so that the modified playlist satisfies the set of restrictive criteria; and

disregarding the request if the requested media item cannot be added to the playlist so that the modified playlist would satisfy the set of restrictive criteria.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the set of restrictive criteria comprises whether the playlist complies with the Digital Millennium Copyright Act requirement for obtaining a statutory license.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the delivering media items comprises broadcasting media items to the user electronic device, and wherein said set of restrictive criteria comprises whether fewer than a substantial number of media items are delivered .

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the delivering media items further comprises broadcasting media items to the user electronic device, and wherein said set of restrictive criteria comprises whether fewer than a substantial number of media items are delivered at a time that the user electronic device is informed the requested media items will be delivered.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein delivering the media items comprises broadcasting media items to the user electronic device so that the media items are delivered in compliance with the Digital Millennium Copyright Act requirement for obtaining a statutory license.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing a searchable database of media items that allows at least one of the user electronic devices to search the database by a set of media attributes;

receiving a request from one or more of the user electronic devices for a media item from the database; and

selectively adding the requested media item from the database to the playlist if the modified playlist would satisfy the set of restrictive criteria.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the adding comprises limiting the number of requests from the user electronic device.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the media items are sound recordings.

12. (Withdrawn) A computer implemented method of interactively delivering media over a computer network from a media server to a plurality of clients, the method comprising:

generating a playlist that defines a plurality of media files in an order, the playlist satisfying a set of restrictive criteria;

sequentially transmitting the media files as defined by the playlist over the computer network to the clients;

receiving a request for a media file from a client; and

scheduling the requested media file into the playlist if the updated playlist would satisfy the restrictive criteria, whereby the media files are transmitted to the clients according to the updated playlist.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 12, wherein the set of restrictive criteria comprises whether the playlist satisfies a set of group references.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 12, wherein the scheduling comprises adding requested media files into the playlist so that fewer than a substantial number of media files will be transmitted within an hour of receiving the corresponding request, or at a time that a client is informed that the requested media file will be transmitted.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14, wherein the scheduling comprises adding requested media files into the playlist so that at least one media file will be transmitted within an hour of receiving the corresponding request.

16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 12, wherein the media files represent sound recordings.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 12, further comprising:

providing a searchable database of media files, wherein a client can search the database according to a set of media file attributes and request a specific media file there from; and

scheduling the requested specific media file into the playlist if the updated playlist would satisfy the set of restrictive criteria.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 12, wherein the media server comprises a computer system having a memory, the method further comprising:

maintaining the playlist in the memory of the media server.

19. (Withdrawn) A computer implemented method of delivering media over a computer network to multiple users comprising:

broadcasting streaming media on a channel according to a broadcasting schedule, wherein multiple users can access the channel and the media broadcasted thereon;

receiving a plurality of requests for media from one or more users; and

incorporating the requested media into the streaming media if doing so would satisfy a set of restrictive criteria.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein the broadcasting comprises delivering fewer than a substantial number of requested media within an hour of receiving the corresponding request, or at a time that the requesting user is informed that the requested media will be broadcast.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein streaming media is streaming audio.

22. (Withdrawn) A computer implemented method of delivering media over a computer network from a media provider to multiple users, the method comprising:

broadcasting a specific program of media on each of a plurality of channels, wherein multiple users can access each channel and thereby receive the program broadcasted thereon;
receiving from a user a request for media corresponding to one of the channels; and
incorporating the requested media into the corresponding channel's program if the modified program would satisfy a set of restrictive criteria, the restrictive criteria including a set of channel preferences unique between at least two channels.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, wherein the incorporating comprises adding the requested media into the corresponding channel's program so that fewer than a substantial number of media will be broadcasted within an hour of receiving the corresponding request or at a time that a user is informed that the requested media will be broadcasted.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, wherein the set of restrictive criteria comprises a requirement that the program only incorporate requests originating from users who have paid a fee to the media provider.

25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, wherein the media is music.

26. (Previously Presented) One or more media servers for delivering digital media files to a plurality of client electronic devices over a computer network, the one or more media servers comprising:

a network connection for communicatively coupling one or more of the media servers with the plurality of client electronic devices over the network;

a playlist memory containing a playlist, wherein the playlist comprises a sequentially ordered plurality of digital media items that satisfies a set of restrictive criteria;

a media storage memory containing a library of the digital media files; and

a processor coupled with the network connection, the playlist memory, and the media storage memory, the processor operative to:

play the playlist by transmitting digital media files according to the sequential order indicated by the playlist from the media storage memory to the plurality of client electronic devices over the computer network; and

while the playlist is playing:

evaluate requests to add a requested digital media item to the playlist from one or more of the client electronic devices using the set of restrictive criteria; and

upon at least one of the requests satisfying the set of restrictive criteria, add an indication of the requested digital media file to the playlist for delivery to the user electronic device subsequent to receipt of said at least one of the requests.

27. (Previously Presented) The one or more media servers of claim 26, wherein the one or more media servers broadcast fewer than a substantial number of digital media files within an hour of receiving the request for a corresponding digital media file, or at a time that at one client electronic device is informed that the requested digital media file will be broadcast.

28. (Previously Presented) The one or more media servers of claim 26, wherein the set of restrictive criteria comprise whether the playlist satisfies a set of group preferences.

29. (Previously Presented) The one or more media servers of claim 26, wherein the digital media files are digital sound files.

30. (Previously Presented) The one or more media servers of claim 26, wherein:

the playlist memory contains a plurality of playlists, each playlist corresponding to a network media channel;

the processor is adapted to receive requests for digital media files from the plurality of client electronic devices, each request being associated with a network media channel, wherein the processor evaluates each request using one or more restrictive criteria and, if the playlist

including the requested digital media file would satisfy the set of restrictive criteria, adds the requested digital media file to the playlist; and

the one or more media servers broadcast digital media files sequentially to the network on each of the plurality of network media channels according to each corresponding playlist.

31. (Previously Presented) The one or more media servers of claim 30, wherein, for each network media channel, the one or more media servers broadcast fewer than a substantial number of requested digital media files within an hour of receiving at least one of the requests for the corresponding digital media file, or at a time that at least one of the client electronic devices is informed that the requested digital media file will be broadcast.

32. (Previously Presented) The one or more media servers of claim 30, wherein the set of restrictive criteria comprises a set of group preferences to each network media channel.

33. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the set of restrictive criteria includes a condition that would preclude a media file from outside a defined genre from being added to the playlist.

34. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the set of restrictive criteria includes a condition that would preclude a media file from being played more than one time within a defined period of time.

35. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the set group preferences defines one of a genre, type or category of a channel.